GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5173
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2001
GUIDELINES TO MEDIA POLICY
ALE NARENDRA

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to issue fresh guidelines relating to levels of officials who are allowed to brief the media on matters of policy;

(b) if so, the details of existing and new guidelines;

(c) whether existing guidelines are being followed by the officials; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) The existing guidelines for briefing media are given in the statement annexed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5173 FOR ANSWE ON 20TH APRIL 2001.

In the Manual of Office Procedure (Para 113) entitled `Communication of information to the press`, it is envisaged as follows: -

(1) Official information to the press and other news media, i.e., radio and television, will normally be communicated through the Press Information Bureau.

(2) Only Ministers, Secretaries and other officers specially authorized in thisbehalf may give information or be accessible to the representatives of the press. Any other official, if approached by a representative of the press, will direct him to the Press Information Bureau.

(3) Whenever it is proposed to release an official information to the press, or to hold a press conference or press briefing, or to give publicity to an official report, resolution or any other publication, the department concerned will consult the accredited Information Officer in advance.